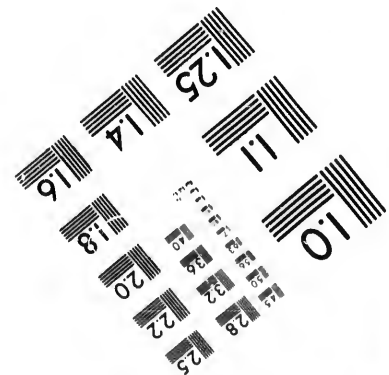
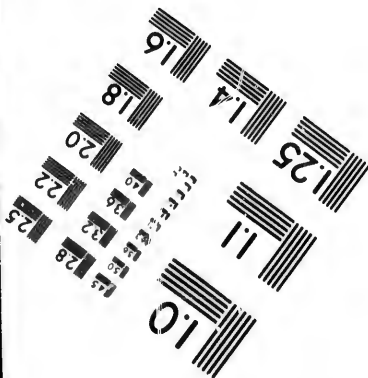
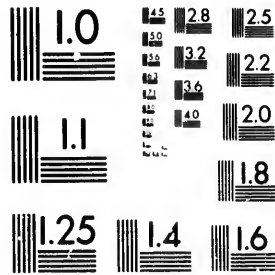


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10



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Additional comments/
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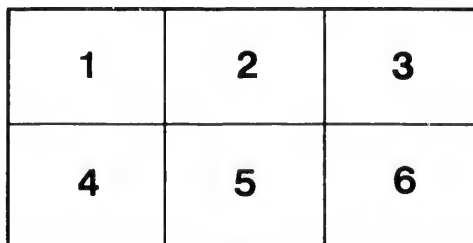
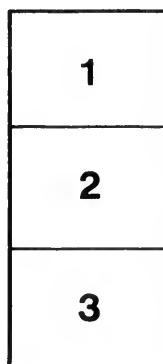
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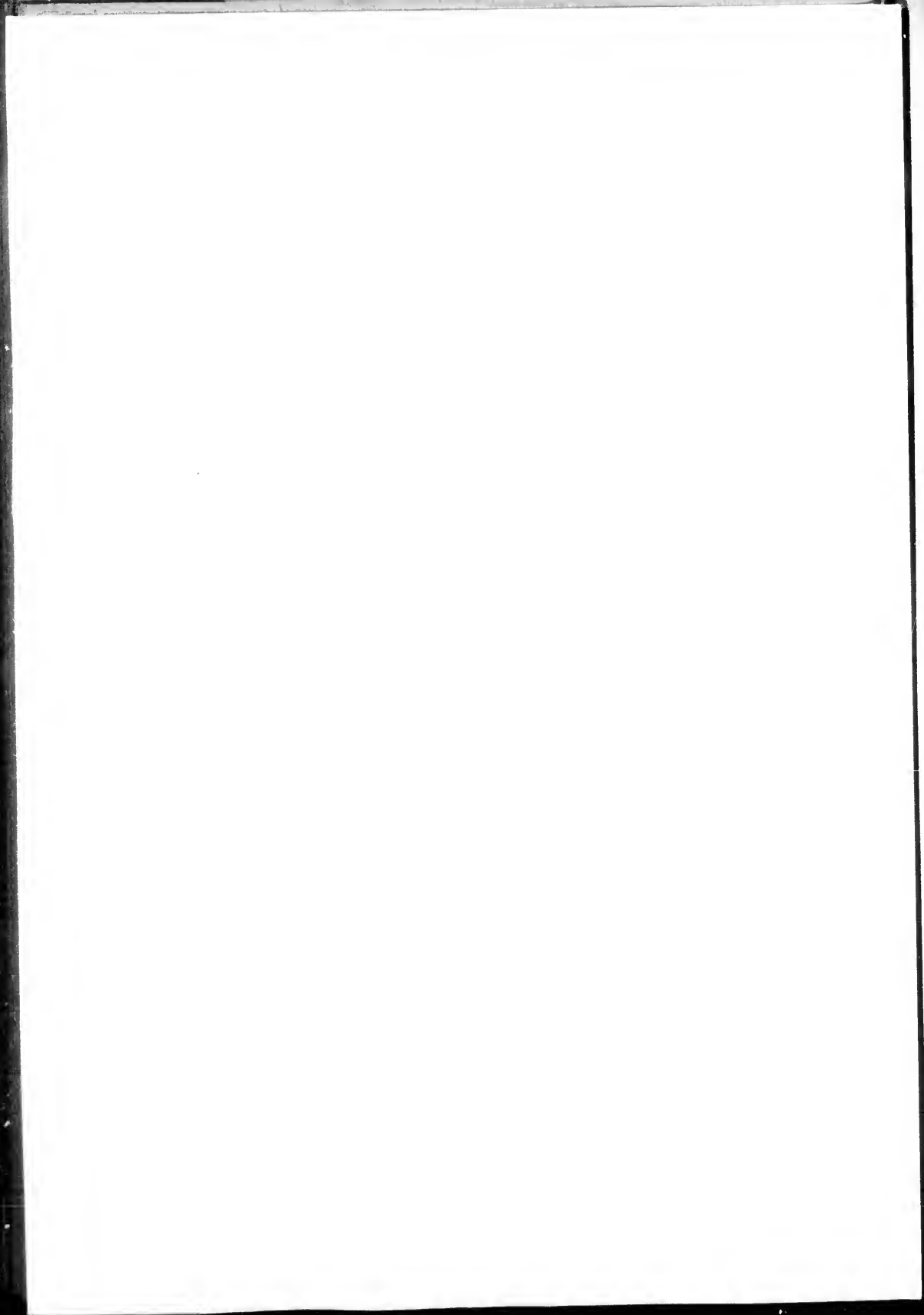
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No. 11.

INFORMATION FOR THE ELECTORS.

The Government and the Farmer.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa was established in 1886, and immediately afterward branch farms were located at Nappan, N.S., Brandon, Man., Indian Head, N.W.T., and Agassiz, B.C. The system, as it stands to-day, under the zealous and intelligent direction of the Minister of Agriculture, is one of the most complete in the world. It is capable of the widest usefulness to the farmers of Canada. That this institution is appreciated by the class it was intended to serve, is proven by the demand for new varieties of seed, the inquiries made by individuals, and the extensive circulation of the bulletins. These bulletins give the results arrived at from time to time, and are prepared with a scrupulous regard for accuracy of detail and clearness. They are looked upon as absolutely reliable. Last year the samples of grain sent out aggregated between eighteen and nineteen tons. The bulletin list bears 20,600 names of farmers living in all parts of the Dominion, and during the year past, 36,362 letters were exchanged between individuals and the members of the Farms' staff. At the Central Farm, 1,240

samples of seed grain were tested in 1890, with a view to informing individual farmers as to the percentage of kernels which might be expected to grow under favorable conditions. This information is given at no cost whatever to the farmer. His samples are carried free through the mails, and he pays no fee for the test. In the same way, the members of the staff hold themselves ready to answer all enquiries promptly and without cost. They will even do more than that without charge. The chemist, for example, will receive samples of well water from farmers and in due time inform them as to its purity and fitness for use, either by their animals or their households. A farmer finding some insect pest preying upon his fruit, his vegetables or his grain, has only to send a specimen to the entomologist, and he will receive in course of mail a definite answer as to the character of the depredator and the remedy. Problems relating to fruit culture or tree-growing are dealt with by the horticulturist; while matters bearing upon poultry-raising are taken up by an intelligent expert in charge of that branch. Beyond these, the Director is prepared to receive inquiries of any sort having to do with farming, and to give answers whenever it is at all possible. These farms are thoroughly equipped for useful work, and are well calculated to enhance the profits of farming in all its branches.

TWO-ROWED BARLEY.

An instance of the Government's positive efforts to aid the farmers of Canada arose during the year 1889. For reasons which are generally understood, the Minister of Agriculture imported 10,000 bushels of the best English two-rowed malting barley. This was sold to farmers throughout the Dominion at the bare cost in England. The year was unfavorable for barley growing; but the crop of last season, from the imported seed, turned out well. Samples sent to the Brewsters and Malsters' Exhibition in London, Eng., last fall, were highly commended. Quite recently 400 bushels were sent to Great Britain for the purpose of being thoroughly tested in one of the leading breweries. The reports of experts in the United Kingdom, without a single exception,

show most conclusively that two-rowed barley can be successfully grown in Canada, of the finest quality, such as has for many years commanded a high market price in England. It follows, therefore, that if our farmers are shut out from the American market they can find markets for their barley in Great Britain—provided, of course, that they grow the proper variety and give it the necessary attention.

A DAIRY COMMISSIONER.

The appointment of Prof. J. W. Robertson as Dairy Commissioner for the Dominion was another striking evidence of the Government's appreciation of the needs of our farmers. The development of a very large trade in cheese and the extension of dairy operations throughout the country called for whatever help the Government could give for the promotion of these interests. The dairymen of the Dominion, in convention, suggested the appointment of a Commissioner, and the Minister of Agriculture responded without delay. Prof. Robertson's appointment was commended by dairymen throughout Canada, and he has already been able to do a large amount of useful work. He is attached to the staff of the Central Experimental Farm and has taken charge of the new and splendidly equipped experimental dairy.

DAIRY SCHOOLS.

The Government have taken steps for the establishment of dairy schools throughout the Dominion, for the commendable purpose of teaching farmers how best to apply their skill and labour in the production of fine butter and cheese. These schools will be under the supervision of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner. It is seen that Denmark, with no better natural facilities than those possessed by Canada, has given her dairy products a very high place in the world's best markets. This has been brought about by means which the Government of Canada proposes, as far as is advisable or necessary, to adopt. It is believed that dairying may be made the best paying branch of agriculture in the Dominion.

THE HOME MARKET.

Changes were made in the tariff during the past year, with a view to further protecting the home market of the Canadian farmer. It was found that the local consumption of meat products in particular had been met, to a considerable extent, by American producers. During the year 1889 3,795,105 pounds of fresh beef were sent into Canada from the abattoirs of Chicago and other large cities, while pork, lard, hams and bacon aggregated 27,147,491 pounds. It was felt that our farmers should be saved from this serious competition, as far as possible, and in keeping with the prevailing policy of protection, the scale of duty on these articles was raised. At the same time the duties on fruit were restored. It may now be said that our farmers enjoy a high measure of protection in so far as the home market is concerned.

NEW MARKETS.

The efforts which are being put forth by the Government to obtain new markets are of vital concern to the farming community. Should the steps being taken prove successful the farmers of Canada will be the chief gainers.

